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were inspected, 35 passed, and 1 detained, and baggage disinfected. At San Luis Potosi, for the week ended September 2, 12 passengers were inspected and passed.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Yellow fever in Orizaba.

CITY OF MEXICO, MEXICO, *August 30, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that pursuant to my telegram to you of August 27, announcing the probable infection of Orizaba with yellow fever, and also my intended departure for that place on August 29, I arrived in Orizaba on the afternoon of the latter date, and from information obtained from Dr. Nicolas Diaz and the registrar of the city was able to verify the report. The conditions essential to the infecting of the town were not supposed to exist prior to about August 10, when the heavy rains, upon which the healthfulness of the place so largely depended, ceased and a season of unusually warm weather supervened. The result of this temporary drouth was an accumulation all over the town of large quantities of refuse matter, the unusual presence of which attracted my attention at once.

The houses in the infected area are situated in the lowest part of the town, where stagnant water and filth are everywhere seen. The better or higher portion of Orizaba is presumably not infected, at least there is no evidence of it at the present time. The 6 cases which developed in Orizaba were found in the same block, and in a portion of the town contiguous to the yard of the railway (Mexican) running from Vera Cruz and Cordova. The persons infected, 5 men and 1 woman, were of the very lowest class of peons, and their surroundings were very filthy. Three of the cases occurred in the same house, 2 of them being man and wife, the third a near relative. It was clearly proved that none of these cases had been contracted outside of Orizaba, although the case which first caused the infection died on July 18, and was probably contracted by sleeping in a freight car lately from Cordova, and partly filled with freight from that place. On July 24, in a house across the street from the block afterwards infected, a peon was found suffering from the disease, the source of infection in this case being a large number of parcels which were left there for safe-keeping by other peons employed up and down the railroad. This case recovered. At this time, however, no attempt was made to disinfect the premises.

The first case from this supposed focus occurred on August 15, and the last death took place on August 26. Of these 6 cases all died, and the post-mortem examination held on 2 of the cadavers by Dr. Diaz revealed the pathological changes usually found in this disease. I am informed that the houses wherein these cases occurred have been disinfected by formaldehyde gas. The registrar reports 18 deaths from yellow fever in Orizaba to August 29. The total number of cases can not be determined, but it is probably larger than one would naturally suppose. I will endeavor to keep you regularly informed as to the status of this disease in Orizaba in the future. While before this focus was established in Orizaba, it was the universal opinion that the place was noninfectible, the president of the board of health here, Dr. Sicioga,

informed Acting Assistant Surgeon Turpin that this town was infected eighteen years ago.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *September 1, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the following information for the past week and the month of August.

For the week ended August 31 there were 16 cases and 14 deaths from yellow fever. For the month of August there were 108 cases and 57 deaths. During the past month I have issued certificates to 436 passengers to Havana and New York, and have inspected and issued bills of health to 34 vessels. I have found 9 cases of yellow fever in 5 vessels and removed the sick ashore and had the vessels fumigated to the best of my ability.

According to the reports of the fever that I can secure, the epidemic seems to have assumed a very malignant form, and the percentage of deaths is much higher than at any time of the epidemic. Whether this is due to the cases not being reported (all deaths are reported), or an increase in the virulence of the fever it is hard to determine. The weather continues dry and hot, the town stench is no better, and the general unsanitary condition remains unchanged.

My information from Cordova and Orizaba is secured from English and American passengers from there, and all reports are panicky. * * *

I often hear of the fever in the lower coast towns and all along up to Tampico, and an occasional case there; but as we have troubles of the same kind here it makes very little difference to us, quarantinably speaking, as the lower coast passengers and baggage have all to come through here to the United States and Cuban ports.

The harbor is free from fever, also vessels; but the dredge that I mentioned in a previous report as infected, has furnished one more case that proved fatal last Sunday. When approached about disinfecting, and fumigating the dredge, the reply was What is the use of fumigating the boat when the men are ashore every night? Well, I guess that they will have after a while either a dead or immune crew. Baggage disinfecting is progressing spasmodically under the direction of the local health authorities. A fee is charged for labeling the same as for fumigating. Passengers from the noninfected interior make many kicks about the payment of the fee, and seem to hold me personally responsible for their trouble and expense.

Respectfully, yours,

SAML. H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

RUSSIA.

Precautions against the plague in Russia.

SIR: There seems to be a general belief in this section of Europe that with the advent of the Paris Exposition the bubonic plague will be spread all over the continent of Europe, and may even reach the States of